

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the outstanding Office Action dated November 29, 2004, the response having been made final, wherein the Examiner allowed claims 10-15 and 22, and also indicated that claims 2,4, 6-9, 17, 18, 25 and 26 would be directed to allowable subject matter if re-written in appropriate independent form. This indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the last paragraph on page six of the specification has been amended so that line 19 reads "strips 14."

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 2. Therefore, amended claim 1 is now directed to allowable subject matter. Moreover, claims 4-6, which depend from claim 1, are also directed to allowable subject matter.

In addition, claim 16 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 17, and therefore this claim, and all claims which depend therefrom (18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25 and 26) are all directed to allowable subject matter.

Further, dependent claim 4 has been re-written as new claim 27, and therefore this claim is directed to allowable subject matter.

Moreover, claim 6 has been re-written as independent claim 28,

and therefore this claim, as well as dependent claims 7, 8 and 9, are all directed to allowable subject matter.

Note also that dependent claim 18 has been re-written as independent claim 29, and therefore this claim and dependent claim 30 are all directed to allowable subject matter.

Note further that dependent claim 25 has been re-written as new independent claim 31 and therefore this claim is directed to allowable subject matter.

Finally, note that dependent claim 26 has been re-written as independent claim 32 and therefore this claim is also directed to allowable subject matter.

In summary, therefore, applicants submit that claims 1, 4-16 and 18-32, all the claims now pending in the application, are directed to allowable subject matter.


For the presentation of 5 additional independent claims and 4 overall claims, enclosed is a check in the amount of \$1,200 (large entity). Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1730.

Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
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